



Keystone Ag Digest



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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This publication may be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."				

Note to Survey Respondents: Results of many surveys we conduct throughout the year are included in this report! Most survey results are not published individually. **Thank you** for taking the time to complete our surveys!

HOG & PIG INVENTORY

There were 1,120,000 hogs and pigs on Pennsylvania farms on March 1, 2008. This estimated inventory was 30,000 head less than the December 1 inventory, but was 10,000 head more than the March 1, 2007 inventory. Market hog inventory, at 1,020,000 head, decreased 30,000 head since December; while breeding stock inventory, at 100,000 head, was unchanged from both December and March of last year. The December 2007-February 2008 pig crop totaled 409,000 head, up 13,000 head or 3 percent from March a year earlier, but down 46,000 head or 10 percent from the September -November 2007 pig crop. There were 43,000 sows farrowed during the quarter, down from 44,000 a year ago. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 43 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.5, up 0.4 from the previous quarter and up 0.5 from the 9.0 pigs per litter for March a year ago.

Pennsylvania hog farmers intend to have 45,000 sows farrow during both the March-May and June-August quarters, the same number that actually farrowed in March-May 2007 and 2,000 less than actually farrowed in the June-August period one year ago.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2008, was 65.9 million head. This was up 7 percent from March 1, 2007, but down 2 percent from December 1, 2007. Breeding inventory, at 6.14 million head, was

up less than 1 percent from last year, but down slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 59.8 million head, was up 7 percent from last year, but down 2 percent from last quarter.

The December 2007 - February 2008 U.S. pig crop, at 28.1 million head, was up 6 percent from 2007, and up 9 percent from 2006. Sows farrowed during this period totaled 3.05 million head, up 5 percent from 2007 and up 7 percent from 2006. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 50 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.21 for the December 2007-February 2008 period, compared to 9.09 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.30 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 3.05 million sows farrow during the March-May 2008 quarter, up slightly from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2007, and up 4 percent from 2006. Intended farrowings for June-August 2008, at 3.04 million sows, are down 2 percent from 2007, but up 4 percent from 2006. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 40 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 39 percent last year.

HOGS & PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBER, MARCH 1, 2007-2008

Item	Pennsylvania			United States		
	2007	2008	2008/07	2007	2008	2008/07
	(000) Head		Percent	(000) Head		Percent
Inventory - March 1:						
All Hogs & Pigs.....	1,110	1,120	101	61,860	65,909	107
Kept For Breeding.....	100	100	100	6,110	6,138	100
Market.....	1,010	1,020	101	55,749	59,770	107
Market Hogs & Pigs By Weight Groups:						
Under 60 Pounds.....	300	310	103	20,381	21,897	107
60-119 Pounds.....	295	295	100	13,356	14,291	107
120-179 Pounds.....	225	220	98	11,679	12,443	107
180 Pounds and Over.....	190	195	103	10,334	11,140	108
Sows Farrowing:						
December ¹ - February.....	44	43	98	2,905	3,051	105
March-May.....	45	² 45	100	3,033	² 3,047	100
June-August.....	47	² 45	96	3,114	² 3,037	98
Pig Crop:						
December ¹ - February.....	396	409	103	26,396	28,094	106
	Number			Number		
Pigs Per Litter:						
December ¹ - February.....	9.00	9.50	106	9.09	9.21	101

¹ December preceding year. ² Intentions.

MARCH FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP 3 POINTS FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 150 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 3 points (2.0 percent) from February. The Crop Index is up 8 points (4.9 percent) but the Livestock Index was unchanged. Producers received higher commodity prices for wheat, corn, lettuce, and eggs and lower prices for milk, snap beans, strawberries, and hogs. In addition to prices, the overall index is affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly

marketings of strawberries, soybeans, milk, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, corn, cotton, and oranges.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 17 points (13 percent) from March 2007. The Food Commodities Index, at 149, increased 3 points (2.1 percent) from last month and increased 15 points (11 percent) from March 2007.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, MARCH 2008

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Mar 2007	Feb 2008	Mar 2008 ¹	Mar 2007	Feb 2008	Mar 2008 ¹
<i>Dollars</i>							
Corn.....	Bu.	3.98	5.47	5.61	3.43	4.53	4.83
Wheat, Winter ²	Bu.	-	-	-	4.67	8.97	11.00
Oats.....	Bu.	2.45	3.64	3.64	2.40	3.20	3.38
Barley ²	Bu.	-	-	-	3.11	4.39	4.75
Soybeans ²	Bu.	-	-	-	6.95	11.70	11.90
Hay, Dry All	Ton	140.00	189.00	205.00	119.00	133.00	139.00
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	159.00	221.00	230.00	121.00	138.00	143.00
Dry Other.....	Ton	137.00	182.00	200.00	115.00	122.00	128.00
Apples, Fresh Use.....	Lb.	0.264	0.308	0.304	0.292	0.347	0.344
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	47.90	51.30	52.20	47.20	51.40	52.20
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	90.40	86.10	86.50	97.70	94.20	93.80
Calves	Cwt.	112.00	118.00	115.00	122.00	120.00	120.00
Barrows & Gilts.....	Cwt.	41.00	38.00	36.40	45.50	43.20	41.90
Sows.....	Cwt.	34.60	22.20	25.30	33.00	22.90	25.10
Sheep	Cwt.	44.70	47.40	-	36.60	29.90	-
Lambs.....	Cwt.	125.00	120.00	-	95.50	96.80	-
Eggs ³	Doz.	0.630	1.120	1.220	0.681	1.220	1.300
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	17.20	21.00	-	15.60	19.10	18.30
Manufactured Grade ⁴ ...	Cwt.	-	-	-	15.10	18.30	18.30
All	Cwt.	17.20	21.00	19.20	15.60	19.10	18.30
Milk Cows ⁵	Head	-	-	-	-	-	-

¹ Preliminary. ² Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. ³ Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ⁴ PA is no longer published due to insufficient manufacturing grade milk volume. ⁵ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., Jul, Oct.). ⁶ Apples insufficient sales to establish a price.

APPLE STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, PENNSYLVANIA & UNITED STATES

Commodity	All Warehouse Stocks		
	February 28, 2007	January 31, 2008	February 29, 2008
Pennsylvania			
Apples:			
Regular Storage	69,678,000	82,236,000	46,998,000
Controlled Atmosphere	82,194,000	99,456,000	91,392,000
TOTAL APPLES	151,872,000	181,692,000	138,390,000
United States			
Apples:			
Regular Storage	305,412,000	498,324,000	364,184,000
Controlled Atmosphere	2,812,654,000	3,375,172,000	2,862,722,000
TOTAL APPLES	3,118,066,000	3,873,496,000	3,226,906,000

APPLE COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS, FEBRUARY 2008

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 3,295,000 bushels on February 29, 2008, compared to 3,616,000 bushels on February 28, 2007. The three largest varieties in storage on February 29, 2008 were: Golden Delicious, 989,000 bushels; York, 705,500

bushels; and Rome, 615,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 138,390,000 pounds on February 29, 2008, compared to 151,872,000 pounds on February 28, 2007.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Pennsylvania farmers intend to plant more acres of wheat, barley, oats, corn, sorghum, and soybeans this spring and harvest more acres of southern Maryland-type tobacco and dry hay this year than a year ago. Pennsylvania seedleaf-type tobacco acres are unchanged from last year. Harvesting intentions of light air-cured burley tobacco are down from last year. Winter wheat planted, at 200,000 acres, is up 30,000 acres or 18 percent from last year's planted acres and up 25 percent from the 160,000 acres planted in 2006. Barley planting intentions are estimated at 65,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from the 55,000 acres planted each of the last two years. Oat planting intended acreage is 135,000, up 20,000 acres or 17 percent from last year, and unchanged from 2006.

Intended plantings of corn for all purposes are 1,430,000 acres, up 20,000 acres or 1 percent from last year and 80,000 acres above two years ago. Farmers also intend to plant 17,000 acres of sorghum in 2008, which is up 2,000 acres or 13 percent from last year, and 4,000 acres above 2006. Soybean acreage planting intentions are 445,000 acres, 20,000 acres or 5 percent above the 425,000 acres planted last year and 3 percent above 2006. If realized, this will be the highest soybean planted acreage on record for Pennsylvania.

Intentions are to harvest 2,000 acres of Southern Maryland-type tobacco, 900 acres more than the 1,100 acres harvested each of the last two years. Pennsylvania seedleaf-type tobacco harvested acreage is expected to be 1,800 acres, unchanged from last year, and 500 acres or 38 percent more than two years ago. Pennsylvania farmers also intend to plant 4,800 acres of light air-cured burley tobacco this year, which is down 200 acres from last year and 700 acres below two years ago. Harvest intentions for all dry hay in 2008 are estimated at 1,850,000 acres, up 50,000 acres from last year's harvest and 100,000 acres more than in 2006.

Corn growers in the United States intend to plant 86.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, down 8 percent from last year when corn planted area was the highest since 1944. Expected acreage is down from last year in most states as favorable prices for other crops, high input costs for corn, and crop rotation considerations are motivating some farmers to plant fewer acres to corn. Despite the decrease, corn acreage is expected to remain at historically high levels as the corn price outlook remains strong due in part to the continued expansion in ethanol production.

Soybean producers intend to plant 74.8 million acres in 2008, up 18 percent from last year, but 1 percent below the record high acreage in 2006. Acreage increases are expected in all states, except in West Virginia, which is unchanged from last year. The largest increases are expected in Iowa and Nebraska, up 1.25 million acres and 1.20 million acres from 2007, respectively. Increases of at least 800,000 acres are also expected in Indiana, Minnesota, and South Dakota. If realized, the planted acreage in Kansas, New York, and Pennsylvania will be the largest on record.

All wheat planted area is estimated at 63.8 million acres, up 6 percent from 2007. The 2008 winter wheat planted area, at 46.8 million acres, is 4 percent above last year and up slightly from the previous estimate.

Of this total, about 32.5 million acres are Hard Red Winter wheat; 10.7 million acres are Soft Red Winter wheat, and 3.63 million acres White Winter wheat.

The 2008 intended sorghum area intended to be planted for all purposes is estimated at 7.42 million acres, down 4 percent from 2007. Barley producers intend to plant 4.15 million acres in 2008, up 3 percent from last year. Oat acres seeded and to be seeded for the 2008 crop year are expected to total 3.42 million, down 9 percent from the 3.76 million acres planted in 2007 and the lowest level on record. All tobacco growers intend to harvest 350,920 acres in 2008, down 1 percent from 2007, but 4 percent above 2006. Acreage to be harvested for dry hay is expected to be 60.6 million in 2008, down 2 percent from 2007.

Data users are reminded that actual acreages planted may vary from intentions because of changes in grower plans, the effects of weather, availability of production inputs, and changes in market conditions prior to planting. Data users are also reminded that this report includes intentions to plant for all purposes.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Crop	Area Planted			
	2006	2007	Ind 2008	2008/07
	(000) Acres			Percent
CORN				
Pennsylvania.....	1,350	1,410	1,430	101
United States	78,327	93,600	86,014	92
ALL WHEAT ¹				
Pennsylvania.....	160	170	200	118
United States	57,344	60,433	63,803	106
OATS ¹				
Pennsylvania.....	135	115	135	117
United States	4,168	3,760	3,420	91
BARLEY ¹				
Pennsylvania.....	55	55	65	118
United States	3,452	4,020	4,147	103
SOYBEANS				
Pennsylvania.....	430	425	445	105
United States	75,522	63,631	74,793	118
SORGHUM				
Pennsylvania.....	13	15	17	113
United States	6,522	7,718	7,415	96
DRY ALL HAY ²				
Pennsylvania.....	1,750	1,800	1,850	103
United States	60,927	61,625	60,583	98
ALL TOBACCO ²				
Pennsylvania.....	7.9	7.9	8.6	109
United States	339.0	356.0	350.9	99

¹ Includes area planted in preceding fall. ² Area harvested.

MARCH GRAIN STOCKS

Pennsylvania's corn stored in all positions on March 1, 2008 was 58.4 million bushels, up 38 percent from last year's level of 42.2 million bushels. On-farm corn stocks amounted to 49 million bushels down 35 percent from December's level. Off-farm stocks were 9.4 million bushels. Wheat stored off farms totaled 5.1 million bushels, down 27 percent from last year, and down 16 percent from December 2007's total of 6.2 million bushels. Soybeans stored off farms totaled 2.997 million bushels down 18 percent from December. Barley stored off farms was 188 thousand bushels, down 62 thousand bushels from December. Oats stored in all positions were 2.5 million bushels, 2.1 million on farm and 350 thousand off farm. Pennsylvania's on-farm stocks of corn and oats are the only two commodities published; all other commodities are not published separately but instead are included with an unallocated National total.

For the United States, corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 6.86 billion bushels, up 13 percent from March 1, 2007. Of the total stocks, 3.78 billion bushels are stored on farms, up 14 percent

from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 3.08 billion bushels, are up 12 percent from a year ago. The December 2007 - February 2008 indicated disappearance is 3.42 billion bushels, compared with 2.86 billion bushels during the same period last year. Soybeans stored in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 1.43 billion bushels, down 20 percent from March 1, 2007. Soybean stocks stored on farms are estimated at 593 million bushels, down 35 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 835 million bushels, are down 5 percent from last March. Indicated disappearance for the December 2007 - February 2008 quarter totaled 904 million bushels, down 1 percent from the same period a year earlier. All wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 710 million bushels, down 17 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 92.0 million bushels, down 52 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 618 million bushels, are down 7 percent from a year ago. The December 2007 - February 2008 indicated disappearance is 422 million bushels, down 8 percent from the same period a year earlier.

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Feb 2007	Jan 2008	Feb 2008	Feb	Jan 2008	Feb 2008
Layers.....	Thous.	22,961	21,817	21,835	348,843	344,791	343,366
Eggs Per 100 Layers.....	Number	2,186	2,429	2,276	1,993	2,218	2,075
Eggs Produced.....	Million	502	530	497	6,951	7,647	7,125
Chick Hatch-Egg Type	Thous.	4,862	4,725	5,596	36,766	40,167	37,549
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type	Thous.	12,581	15,217	14,544	723,753	821,866	771,197
Poults Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	24,249	26,067	24,963

EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during February 2008 totaled 497 million eggs, down 1 percent from the 502 million eggs produced in February 2007. The total number of layers averaged 21.8 million during February, a 5 percent drop from last year. Production per 100 layers was 2,276 eggs during the month, an increase of 90 eggs from February 2007. Egg-type chicks hatched during February 2008 totaled 5.6 million, up 15 percent from the 4.9 million hatched the previous February. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 14.5 million during February 2008, up 16 percent from the same month last year.

United States' egg production totaled 7.13 billion during February 2008, up 3 percent from last year's 6.95 billion during February. The total number of layers during February averaged 343 million, down 2 percent from last year. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,075 eggs, an increase of 82 eggs from February 2007. Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during February totaled 37.5 million, up 2 percent from February 2007. Broiler-type hatch totaled 771 million, a 7 percent increase from last year at this time. There were 25.0 million turkey poults placed in the United States during February 2008, up 3 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago.

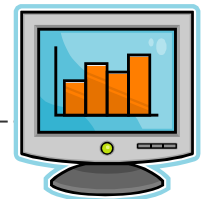
RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production in Pennsylvania during February 2008 totaled 102 million pounds, dressed weight basis, up 5 percent from February 2007. Beef production, at 93.5 million pounds live weight, was up 8 percent from February 2007. Total head

slaughtered was 73,600 up 6 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 22 pounds to 1,281 pounds. Veal production was 5.6 million pounds live weight, down 1 percent from a year ago. Calf slaughter, at 13,900 head, was down 7 percent, and average live weight increased 25 pounds to 401 pounds. Pork production, at 59.1 million pounds live weight, was up 5 percent from a year earlier. Total head slaughtered was 231,800, up 3 percent from February of 2007. Average live weight was 255 pounds, up 3 pounds from February of last year. Lamb and mutton production was 356,000 pounds live weight, up 25 percent. The number slaughtered was 3,500, up 17 percent from February of last year. The average live weight increased 5 pounds from February 2007 to 101 pounds.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, FEB 2008

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod....	Million pounds	102.0	3,967.6
Cattle.....	1,000 Head	73.6	2,643.2
	1,000 pounds live	93,535	3,383,319
Calves	1,000 Head	13.9	69.1
	1,000 pounds live	5,558	18,577
Hogs.....	1,000 Head	231.8	9,378.1
	1,000 pounds live	59,100	2,534,773
Sheep & Lambs....	1,000 Head	3.5	211.4
	1,000 pounds live	356	30,111



County estimates for 2007 can now be found online for barley, oats, wheat, corn, soybeans and sorghum.
Check out NASS's homepage at www.usda.gov/nass and click on 'QuickSTATS'

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